Landscape Architecture

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The Landscape Architecture Department focuses on the development of the basic knowledge, skills, and abilities appropriate to the practice of landscape architecture, with a special emphasis on tropical and sub-tropical landscapes. Our goal is to educate individuals who can serve and lead the community in the enhancement of the quality of life through the aesthetic, meaningful, and sustainable design of the physical environment.

For students seeking to begin their professional design studies as undergraduates, the Landscape Architecture Department offers the Accelerated Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA). The Accelerated Master of Landscape Architecture program provides a seamless course of study leading from undergraduate freshman year to the conferral of the Master of Landscape Architecture professional degree. The Accelerated MLA is comprised of 155 credit hours of integrated pre-graduate and graduate coursework. The degree consists of 71 credit hours of pre-graduate coursework taken over two years followed by 84 credit hours of graduate coursework.

Undergraduate to Graduate Standing

Students will be evaluated for matriculation to graduate status based upon their graduate GPA at the end of the spring semester of their 4th year (provided they have earned a minimum of 120 total credits). The criteria listed below must be satisfied:

1. A minimum of 120 earned credits (counting no more than 60 lower-division transfer credits).
2. 3.0 of higher GPA in graduate level coursework (5000 level of higher), and
3. Completion of undergraduate coursework.

A Bachelor degree is not awarded at any point in the program.

The department maintains close ties with the architecture, and interior design departments in the college, and with landscape architecture professionals. Professional advisory boards regularly review the curriculum to maintain program relevance.

Students applying to the Landscape Architecture Department should plan for the financial aspects of a design education. This includes the costs of computers, software, travel and field trips, tools and equipment, and modeling supplies. Students must also have continuing access to a laptop computer through purchase, lease or other arrangements. For further information contact the CARTA Student Services & Advising Center.

The first professional Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) degree is fully accredited by The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB), an autonomous committee of the American Society of Landscape Architects. The Post-Professional Degree Master of Arts in Landscape Architecture (MALA) is intended for individuals with a professional undergraduate degree in landscape architecture who wish to undertake research, teach and pursue advanced study.

Admission Requirements
Application Deadline: February 1

The department admits students once a year to begin their course work in the fall semester; therefore, it is recommended that interested applicants meet with a member of the college's Student Services and Advising Center during the Fall semester prior to the application deadline. Admission to the department is competitive and is not guaranteed. Admission will be offered based on space availability to those applicants judged by the Department Faculty Committee to have the greatest potential for successful completion of the program.

The department offers professional degrees in Landscape Architecture. The curriculum is composed of two years of foundational, undergraduate coursework followed by three (or four) years of focused graduate course work leading to the accredited Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) professional degree. The department does not award the pre-professional bachelors degree.

Undergraduate students may apply for admission into the first year or the third year of the program. Students of the program are considered undergraduate students until they have accumulated 120 credit hours; therefore, freshman and transfer applicants must apply to both FIU's Undergraduate Admissions Office and to the appropriate department.

Undergraduate Admissions
http://admissions.fiu.edu
Department of Landscape Architecture
www.fiula.com

First Year Admission Requirements

Applicants must meet the University’s admission requirements and submit a design portfolio – please refer to the Design Portfolio Requirements section.

Third Year Transfer Student Admission Requirements

Applicants for third year admission must meet the University’s admission requirements and submit a design portfolio – please refer to the Design Portfolio Requirements section. Students who have completed an AA in architectural studies must meet the following requirements: minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0; completed design studio courses 1 through 4 with a grade of ‘C’ or better; and be judged by the Faculty Admissions Committee to have passed a competitive portfolio review. Only grades of ‘C’ or higher (2.0 on a 4.0 grading scale) are accepted for transfer of applicable prerequisite and core courses from other institutions. No grade below a ‘C’ will be accepted for graduation in required courses or required electives.

Transfer Students: University policy allows the transfer of 60 lower division credits. Additional upper-division transfer credits may be accepted. For most transfer students it will be necessary to take a certain number of undergraduate credits at FIU in order to achieve the minimum required to satisfy the degree requirements.
Third Year Native Student Admission Requirements

FIU undergraduate students who wish to change their major to landscape architecture should check program requirements and be advised by the college’s undergraduate advisors well in advance of application for admission. Departmental approval is required.

Design Portfolio Requirements

All applicants must meet University admissions requirements. Applicants to the Landscape Architecture Department degree programs must also submit a portfolio for departmental review that demonstrates the candidate’s creative aptitudes. The design portfolio is evaluated based on a candidate’s demonstrated sense of composition, attention to detail, graphic communication skills, expressive quality, and sense of space, accuracy, and observation.

A physical design portfolio should be formatted to fit on 8.5” x 11” sheets, bound and carefully packaged, with a maximum thickness of 3”. Applicants may also include 11” x 17” sheets provided they are folded to 8.5” x 11”. Design portfolios may include two-dimensional storyboards (a sequence of still images that show a story), computer printouts, and photographs of small three-dimensional models/projects. Digital design portfolios may be submitted in lieu of a physical portfolio and should be formatted to fit on 8.5” x 11” pages within a single, multi-page PDF file. Please refer to the departmental website for details as to where the portfolio needs to be sent.

The deadline for portfolio submission is February 1st of each year. Portfolios submitted after this date will be considered if studio space is available. Additional details on portfolio requirements can be reviewed through www.fiula.com.

First Year Design Portfolio Requirements

All candidates’ design portfolios must include a one-page statement outlining your intentions, aspirations, and purpose in pursuing a professional degree in landscape architecture. In addition, all candidates’ design portfolios require three freehand drawings based on accurate observations: (1) a drawing of a stair or stairs, (2) a drawing of a bicycle or bicycles or a part of a bicycle or bicycles, and (3) a drawing of your own choice. These drawings may be in ink, pencil or charcoal. In addition to the three required freehand drawings, the first year design portfolio may contain reproductions of a two-or-three dimensional work.

Third Year Design Portfolio Requirements

All candidates’ design portfolios must include a one-page (maximum) statement outlining your intentions, aspirations, and purpose in pursuing a professional degree in landscape architecture. The design portfolio should include no more than 10 examples of your design work executed within the past two years. Examples include, but are not limited to, studies of buildings or landscapes that demonstrate your analytical ability. Recent art and/or design projects that the applicant completed in collaboration with others are acceptable as long as the example contains an explanation of the applicant’s role in the process. Portfolios may not contain samples of architectural or interior design construction documents either by hand or by computer.

Ownership of Student Work

Student work submitted to the department in satisfaction of course or degree requirements becomes the physical property of the department. However, students retain all rights to the intellectual property of such work. This work may include papers, drawings, models, and other materials. The Landscape Architecture Department assumes no responsibility for safeguarding such materials. At its discretion, the department may retain, return, or discard such materials. The department will not normally discard the materials of current students without giving them a chance to reclaim them.

Students must petition the department in writing for any deviation from the established policies.

Study Abroad

Study abroad is an important component of the degree program. Our study abroad center is located in Genoa, Italy. The Genoa center is ideally situated in the historic center of the city in a renovated former convent dating from the 13th century. During the semester abroad option in Italy, students are afforded an opportunity to study those artistic, architectural, landscape and interior spaces and artifacts that have long been acknowledged for their exceptional and enduring value to Western design culture. Other travel options may be available. Departmental approval is required for participation.

Accelerated Master of Landscape Architecture

Degree Program Hours: 155

The accelerated Master of Landscape Architecture program provides a seamless course of study leading from undergraduate freshman year to the conferral of the Professional Master of Landscape Architecture degree (MLA). The Accelerated MLA is comprised of 155 credit hours of integrated pre-graduate and graduate coursework. The degree consists of 71 credit hours of pre-graduate coursework taken over two years followed by 84 credit hours of graduate coursework.

Undergraduate to Graduate Standing

Students will be evaluated for matriculation to graduate status based upon their graduate GPA at the end of the spring semester of their 4th year (provided they have earned a minimum of 120 total credits). The criteria listed below must be satisfied:
1. A minimum of 120 earned credits (counting no more than 60 lower-division transfer credits),
2. 3.0 of higher GPA in graduate level coursework (5000 level of higher), and
3. Completion of undergraduate coursework.

No Bachelor degree is awarded in the accelerated MLA degree path.

The degree program emphasizes integrative learning shared with the architecture and interior design programs at the pre-graduate level through a 2-year foundational
Program Requirements

LAA 3372L Computer Applications in Landscape Architecture
LAA 3333 Site Analysis and Design
LAA 4242 Modern Landscape Architecture
LAA 3212 Landscape Documentation (3). Production of landscape construction documents, including drawings and project manual with bidding documents, contract documents and technical specifications on the computer. Prerequisites: LAA 3802, LAA 3420, ARC 4058 or equivalent.

LAA 3232 Theory of Planting Design (3). An introduction to the study of principles and methods related to the ecological, functional, and aesthetic use of vegetation in landscape architecture. Prerequisite: Program approval.

LAA 3248 Catalysts of the Urban Canvas (3). Seminar-based course exploring the relationship of focused landscape and architectural interventions in the evolution and development of the urban fabric and its physical context.

LAA 3333 Site Analysis and Design (3). Introduction to ecological, functional, and aesthetic considerations in site analysis, planning and design.

LAA 3341 Visual Notation in Landscape Architecture I (3). Course will focus on technique, through exercise and assignments of varying degrees of complexity to explore and develop a range of skills necessary to develop confidence in drawing landscape architecture. Prerequisite: Program approval.


LAA 3354C Landscape Architecture Design 6 (4). Development of design proposals applying principles and methods in landscape architecture within a tropical and sub-tropical context. Regional mid-sized to large scope scale projects. Prerequisites: LAA 3712, LAA 3802. Corequisites: LAA 3420, LAA 3602.

LAA 3372L Computer Applications in Landscape Architecture (3). Advanced study of computer software packages applicable to the architecture office environment, with particular emphasis on CAD software, graphics packages and desktop publishing. Prerequisite: Program approval.

LAA 3377C GIS Applications in Landscape Modeling (3). Introduction to modeling capabilities of GIS in the planning process addressing the natural and cultural characteristics of the landscape. Prerequisite: Program approval.

LAA 3420 Landscape Construction (3). Technical aspects of the design and specification of sitework, including materials, products, and methods of installation used in landscape construction. Prerequisites: LAA 3802, ARC 4058 or equivalent.

LAA 3430 Landscape Structures (3). Production of landscape construction details for structures and systems used in landscape architecture. Prerequisite: Program approval.

LAA 3602 South Florida Landscapes (3). Study of the structure, function, and change in the natural and cultural landscapes of tropical and subtropical regions. Prerequisite: Program approval.


LAA 3802 Landscape Development (3). Technical aspects of the design and specification of earthwork, including materials, products, and methods of installation used in landscape development. Prerequisites: ARC 4058 or equivalent.

LAA 3905C Special Topics Design Studio (4). A landscape architectural design studio based on a particular aspect of landscape architectural design under the direction of appropriate faculty.

LAA 3936 Cejas Eminent Scholar Seminar (1-3). This is a seminar/workshop course taught by distinguished educators, scholars, and designers. Lectures, critical readings, and discussions of thematic topics make up the methodology of the course.

LAA 4210 Professional Office Practice (3). An introduction in office administration, negotiation of contracts, fee structure, professional ethics, client and public relations. Business organization, procedure scheduling and task allocation. Prerequisite: Program approval.

LAA 4230 Theory of Landscape Architecture (3). Critical review of the environmental parameters, morphological concepts and ideological principles that generate form and meaning in landscape architecture. Prerequisite: Program approval.

LAA 4242 Modern Landscape Architecture (3). Critical review of the origins and development of modern and post modern expressions in landscape architecture.

LAA 4344 Italian Design and Culture (3). Course to develop practical facility with the Italian language for conducting everyday tasks, engaging socially and increasing the qualitative depth of the work to be
accomplished in the course. Corequisites: LAA 4354C, LAA 4345.

LAA 4345 Landscape Architecture of the City (3). The study of urban landscape architecture in Genoa, Italy, with emphasis on analysis and representation using manual drawing, digital photography, and conceptual model. Corequisites: LAA 4344, LAA 4354C.

LAA 4354C Landscape Architecture Design 7 (4). Exploration of form, circulation and spatial contexts for the design of urban sites. Consideration of cultural and natural factors addressing intermediate to large scale complexity. Prerequisites: LAA 3420, LAA 3602. Corequisite: LAA 4375C.

LAA 4355C Landscape Architecture Design 8 (4). Exploring contemporary landscape architecture issues through the design of projects varying in scale and complexity. Prerequisite: LAA 4354C. Corequisites: LAA 4210, LAA 3212.

LAA 4375C Computer Modeling (3). This course will explore computer modeling in landscape architecture. Prerequisite: Program approval.

LAA 4546 Tropical Landscapes (3). The study of the structure, function, and change in the natural and cultural landscapes of tropical and subtropical regions. Prerequisite: Program approval.

LAA 4940 Landscape Architecture Internship (3). Advanced issues in professional practice learned through work experience with a licensed practitioner. Prerequisites: LAA 3350C, LAA 3354C, LAA 4354C.

LAA 5233 Theory of Planting Design (3). Study of principles and methods related to the ecological, functional, and aesthetic use of vegetation in landscape architecture. Prerequisite: Program approval. (SS)

LAA 5235 Theory of Landscape Architecture (3). Critical review of the environmental parameters, morphological concepts and ideological principles that generate form and meaning in landscape architecture. Prerequisite: LAA 5716. (S)

LAA 5243 Regional Landscape Issues (3). Exploration of the landscape as cultural construct of social, economic, and scientific values relevant to regional issues of land use and management. Prerequisite: Program approval. (SS)

LAA 5249 Catalysts of the Urban Canvas (3). Seminar-based course exploring the relationship of focused landscape and architectural interventions in the evolution and development of the urban fabric and its physical context.

LAA 531 Site Analysis and Design (3). Introduction to ecological, functional, and aesthetic considerations in site analysis, planning and design. Prerequisite: Program approval.

LAA 5346 Visual Notation in Landscape Architecture I (3). Course will develop drawing skills in multiple media, actively engaging in projects of drawing as a medium of investigation, documentation, memory, observation and presentation for landscape architecture. Prerequisite: Program approval.

LAA 5371 Computer Practices in Landscape Architecture 1 (3). Computer applications of graphics, modeling, and animation techniques used in landscape architecture. Prerequisite: Program approval. (SS)

LAA 5374 Computer Practices in Landscape Architecture 2 (3). Computer application of drafting and design techniques used in landscape architecture. Prerequisites: LAA 5371, Program approval. (F)

LAA 5378 GIS Applications in Landscape Modeling (3). Introduction to modeling capabilities of GIS in the environmental planning process addressing the natural and cultural characteristics of the landscape. Prerequisite: Program approval. (SS)


LAA 5422 Landscape Development (3). Technical aspects of the design and specification of earthwork, including materials, products, and methods of installation used in landscape development. Prerequisite: LAA 5371. (F)

LAA 5423 Landscape Construction (3). Technical aspects of the design and specification of sitework, including materials, products, and methods of installation used in landscape construction. Prerequisite: LAA 5422. (S)

LAA 5425 Landscape Documentation (3). Production of landscape documents including drawings and project manual, bidding documents, contract documents and technical specifications on the computer. Prerequisite: LAA 5423. (F)

LAA 5427 Landscape Structures (3). Production of landscape construction details for structures and systems used in landscape architecture. Prerequisite: LAA 5423. (F)

LAA 5540 Landscape Horticulture (3). Overview of horticultural management practices related to the growth, transport, installation, and maintenance of vegetative materials used in landscape architecture. Prerequisite: Program approval. (SS)

LAA 5541 South Florida Landscapes (3). Study of structure, function, and change in the natural and cultural landscapes of tropical and subtropical Florida. Prerequisite: Program approval. (S)

LAA 5605 Design Foundations (3). The course is a rigorous introduction to design fundamentals. It builds a design language through lectures, practical experiences, exploring techniques, materials, skills, making and critical thinking. Prerequisite: Program approval. Corequisites: LAA 5346 and LAA 5371.

LAA 5652 Formative Studio (6). Introduction to concept development, spatial expression, and representational techniques in landscape architecture. Prerequisite: LAA 5346 and LAA 5XXX Computer Applications in Landscape Architecture. (F)
LAA 5653 Landscape Architecture Graduate Design 1 (6). Application of landscape architecture principles and methods to site design in tropical and subtropical contexts. Prerequisite: LAA 5652. (S)

LAA 5715 History and Theory of Architecture (3). Overview of the history and theory of architecture and urban design from antiquity to the present. Prerequisite: Program approval. (SS)

LAA 5716 History of Landscape Architecture (3). Historical survey of the principal sites and traditions manifested in the evolution of landscape architecture and urban design from antiquity to the present. Prerequisite: Program approval. (F)

LAA 5905C Special Topics Design Studio (6). A landscape architectural design studio based on a particular aspect of landscape architectural design and relevant ideologies under the direction of appropriate faculty.

LAA 5938 Cejas Eminent Scholar Seminar (1-3). This is a seminar/workshop course taught by distinguished educators, scholars, and designers. Lectures, critical readings, and discussions of thematic topics make up the methodology of the course.

LAA 5940 Landscape Architecture Internship (3). Advanced issues in professional practice learned through work experience with a licensed professional.

URP 5316 Environmental and Urban Systems (3). Overview of basic issues and principles of environmental and urban planning and design systems. Emphasis will be placed on multi-disciplinary linkages.

URP 5912 Research Methods (3). Methods of information search, data interpretation, and hypotheses formulation used in the field.